



# House of Representatives

## File No. 704

General Assembly

February Session, 2016

**(Reprint of File No. 460)**

House Bill No. 5309  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 22, 2016

### **AN ACT CONCERNING FACILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL SOLAR APPLICATION PROCESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-245nn of the 2016 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and  
6 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and  
7 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, have a nameplate capacity  
8 rating of twelve kilowatts or less, are installed on the roof of a single-  
9 family home and conform to the Connecticut State Building Code;

10 (2) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated  
11 town and city or consolidated town and borough;

12 (3) "Electronic submission" means the act of a permit applicant who

13 submits his or her completed application to a municipality for review  
14 by means of electronic mail, facsimile or electronic application  
15 available on a municipality's Internet web site.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each municipality shall  
17 incorporate residential solar photovoltaic systems in its building  
18 permit application process or utilize a residential solar photovoltaic  
19 system permit application supplement. In furtherance of such  
20 requirement, any municipality may choose to adopt the standardized  
21 solar photovoltaic permit application form approved by the  
22 Connecticut Green Bank, as described in subsection (g) of this section,  
23 for this purpose. Each municipality may (1) develop and post on the  
24 municipality's Internet web site a permit application for the installation  
25 of a residential solar photovoltaic system, (2) allow for electronic  
26 submission of such application, and (3) exempt such system from  
27 payment of permit fees pursuant to subsection (c) of section 29-263.

28 (c) Not more than thirty days after receipt of a permit application, a  
29 municipality shall inform such permit applicant whether such  
30 application is approved or disapproved.

31 (d) In conducting inspections of work completed pursuant to a  
32 residential solar photovoltaic system permit, a local building official  
33 may use additional resources as described in the International  
34 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.  
35 Inspections shall be performed pursuant to said International  
36 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.

37 (e) Nothing in this section shall authorize any person to cause any  
38 home or structure located within a historic district established  
39 pursuant to section 7-147b to be altered, as defined in section 7-147a.

40 (f) Not later than December 1, 2015, the Connecticut Green Bank, in  
41 consultation with the office of the State Building Inspector, shall plan,  
42 implement and host five residential solar photovoltaic system permit  
43 training seminars, in different municipalities for the purpose of  
44 providing guidance and information to municipal officials developing

45 a permitting process in accordance with this section. The Connecticut  
 46 Green Bank may consult with the Connecticut Conference of  
 47 Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the  
 48 Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association and any other  
 49 organization or representative of such organization in the planning  
 50 and implementation of the training seminars.

51 (g) Not later than December 1, 2016, the Connecticut Green Bank, in  
 52 consultation with the State Building Inspector, shall approve a  
 53 standardized solar photovoltaic system permit application form for all  
 54 solar photovoltaic systems, including, but not limited to, residential  
 55 solar photovoltaic systems. Not later than January 1, 2017, the  
 56 Connecticut Green Bank shall: (1) Inform each municipality that such  
 57 standardized form is available, and (2) post such standardized form on  
 58 the Connecticut Green Bank's Internet web site for adoption by any  
 59 such municipality.

60 (h) Not later than December 1, 2016, the State Building Inspector, in  
 61 consultation with the Connecticut Green Bank, shall develop a  
 62 document of standard best practices for the permitting and inspection  
 63 of residential solar photovoltaic systems. Not later than January 1,  
 64 2017, the State Building Inspector shall issue such document of  
 65 standard best practices to each municipality and recommend that each  
 66 municipality consider such best practices when developing local solar  
 67 adoption plans.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16-245nn

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which requires the State Building Inspector, in consultation with the Connecticut Green Bank, to approve a standardized solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit application for all solar PV systems, has no fiscal impact as it codifies current practice by the Green Bank.

House "A" struck the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact. The substitute language results in the fiscal impact described above.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5309 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING FACILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL SOLAR APPLICATION PROCESS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Connecticut Green Bank, in consultation with the state building inspector, to approve a standardized solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit application for all solar PV systems by December 1, 2016. By law, municipalities were required to incorporate residential solar PV systems in their building permit application process or use a residential PV system permit application supplement by January 1, 2016. The bill allows municipalities to adopt the standardized PV system permit application approved by the Green Bank to meet this requirement.

Under the bill, by January 1, 2017, the Green Bank must inform each municipality that its standardized form is available and post the form on its website for adoption by any municipality.

The bill also requires the state building inspector, in consultation with the Green Bank, to develop a standard best practices document for solar PV system permitting and inspection by December 1, 2016. By January 1, 2017, the state building inspector must issue the document to each municipality and recommend that the municipalities consider the document's best practices when developing local solar adoption plans.

\*House Amendment "A" adds requirements related to the standard best practices document for solar PV system permitting and inspection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    24    Nay   0    (03/17/2016)